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upon them. There is no better way, no way so good, to gain the desired ability. If a pupil does his work honestly, the translating of a properly selected passage at sight differs in one respect only from the preparation of a regular lesson: he uses, instead of a vocabulary and some notes, the knowledge which he has stored in his head. As one of the readers wrote me, "sight reading is a test of ability rather than a means of securing it".

May I express, in closing, my sense of gratitude to the readers with whom I have been associated? Their loyalty and care are beyond praise. If the candidates were as anxious to acquire and display a knowledge of Latin as the readers are concerned to give credit for every atom of knowledge that is discernible, these reflections would have been roseate indeed.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

NELSON G. MCCREA.

REVIEWS

A Study of the Sepulchral Inscriptions in Buecheler's *Carmina Epigraphica Latina*. By Judson Allen Tolman, Jr. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press (1910). Pp. ix + 120. 80 cents.

Taedium Vitae in Roman Sepulchral Inscriptions. By Clara Louise Thompson. Saint Louis, 1911. Pp. vii + 53.

Both these monographs are interesting and profitable studies, which emphasize the human element that appears in Roman epitaphs. Professor Tolman's work is particularly full and elaborate. He takes as the basis of his investigation the *Carmina Epigraphica Latina* published by Buecheler (Leipzig, 1895, 1897) and classifies the instances of every form of human feeling manifested in them. The results are very useful to the student of sociology and religion. An interesting chapter (I: pages 1-17) discusses the form and the character of the inscriptions, their style and composition. The second chapter (18-51) reviews the commonplace expressions found in the inscriptions, such as *hic situs est*, *sit tibi terra levis*, the *quiesco* formulas (worked out fully by Church, *Beiträge zur Sprache der Lateinischen Grabinschriften*, München, 1901), and recurrent topics, such as premature death, the envy of fate, and others. In the next chapter (52-75) the religious references are treated, the belief in the gods in general as guiding the affairs of men, and in the power exerted by fate, so frequently mentioned in the inscriptions by the words *fata*, *Parcae*, and *fortuna*. In the succeeding chapter (76-96), one of the most interesting, we have brought before us expressions of consolation, pessimism, and frivolity, and in the last chapter (97-120) the inscriptions that show a belief in the immortality of the soul. Throughout there are numerous citations from literary sources which confirm the sentiments of the inscriptions. Although here and there one may not agree with Professor Tolman in his interpretations, the plan

of the work is well carried out and the wonder is that such a study was not made long ago.

Dr. Thompson's thesis is a more detailed study of one phase of human emotion as revealed by the inscriptions, namely, expressions of *taedium vitae*, the weariness of life which welcomes death as a release from care and pain. It was temperamental merely or was caused by grief for the death of others, by worry, toil, anxiety, physical suffering, and old age. Literary parallels are frequently cited. These pages form interesting reading for one who reflects upon the common lot of life and realizes that human feeling remains unchanged through the centuries.

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE.

WALTER DENNISON.

The Wars of Greece and Persia. Selections from Herodotus in Attic Greek. Edited by W. D. Lowe. Oxford: at the Clarendon Press (1912). Pp. 128. 60 cents.

These simplified selections from the delightful pages of Herodotus offer the beginner in Greek excellent material for reading which can be undertaken early. The editor has well chosen the imperishable tales: of Croesus and Solon, the emerald ring of Polycrates, the story of Alcmaeon packed with gold-dust, the piety of Cleobis and Biton, the folly of Xerxes, the ambition of Peisistratus, the glory of Marathon, Salamis and Plataea.

Mr. Lowe has altered the non-Attic constructions and forms, while leaving the vocabulary largely unchanged, in order to preserve the Herodotean color. He strangely retains Ionic *ἐς*. In both vocabulary and text he has made the slip of giving *προεβύω* as intransitive. The notes are simple and adapted for beginners. This accounts for a few dogmatic statements on disputed matters, of which a serious instance is that on page 81: "Arion was a Greek lyric poet who flourished about 625 B.C.", etc. This is to give too exact information about a personality regarded as "one and the same with the mythical horse, the manifestation of Poseidon" (so Professor Smyth), or as "redender Name für den Preissinger" (Crusius), or some other abstraction. On the whole, however, it is an excellent little book with which to induct beginners into the beauty and wonder of Greek literature.

VASSAR COLLEGE.

GRACE HARRIET MACURDY.

An Elementary Greek Grammar. By E. E. Bryant and E. D. Lake, Oxford: at the Clarendon Press (1912). Pp. 124. 60 cents.

This small book, arranged by two of the Assistant Masters of Charterhouse, is attractive to the eye with its good print and paper, and pleasant red binding. Its contents should make it useful in the hands of a skilled teacher, if employed in connection with some easy Greek reading-book. It contains the essential forms of the Greek language, presented in four stages, through which an English boy, beginning